



CHESTER-LE-STREET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
BRIDGE END,
CHESTER-LE-STREET.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

Of The

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

FOR THE YEAR 1973

J. L. SIDDLE, M.B., B.S., M.F.C.M., D.P.H.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

CHESTER-12-STREET HUMAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
BRIDGE END,
CHESTER-12-STREET.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1913

J. L. ELLIOT, M.D., D.S., M.F.C.S., M.P.H.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

CHESTER-LE-STREET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Health Department,
Bridge End,
Chester-le-Street.

March 1974.

The Chairman and Members of the
Chester-le-Street Urban District Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report for the year 1973.

In view of Local Government Reorganisation it was not thought that there would be time to produce a report before 1st April 1974 as the Registrar General does not supply corrected statistics until May each year.

However the Department of Health and Social Security requested a modified report and this has been produced. The statistics have not been finalised and will in some cases be found later to be incorrect.

My first report for the Chester-le-Street Urban District Council was for 1953 although I did not take up duties as Medical Officer of Health until September 1954.

I would like to thank all with whom I have worked during the past 19 years for their help and cooperation and particularly wish to mention the staff of the Health Department of whom Mrs. Wright has been 10 years in her post and Mr. McKenna 17 years. I also wish to express my thanks to the members of the Council for their support and help.

Yours faithfully,

J. L. SIDDLE,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health:

JOHN LANGLEY SIDDLE, M.B.,B.S.,M.F.C.M.,D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

PHILIP McKENNA, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.H.

Public Health Inspector:

KEITH ATKINSON, B.A.

Clerical Staff:

LINDA ANNE WRIGHT

County Area No. 4 Clerk:

AUDREY LUGSDEN

Rodent Operative:

RICHARD VICKERS

S E C T I O N A

STATISTICAL AND LOCAL CONDITIONS IN THE AREA

1. Natural and Social Conditions Area - 2,656 acres

The district is divided into six Ward, being almost completely encircled by the Chester-le-Street Rural District.

The Ward Acreages are as follows:

North (East)	578
(West)	
West	381
Central	160
South (Part 1).. ..	491
(Part 2).. ..	
Pelton Fell (Part 1).. ..	678
(Part 2).. ..	
Chester Moor	368

Population

The Registrar General's estimated mid-year population for 1973 was 20,720 as compared to 20,660 for 1972.

The change in population over the years is shown by the following figures:

1950	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18,620
1955	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18,370
1960	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18,770
1965	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19,720
1967	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20,300
1968	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20,650
1969	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20,800
1970	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20,870
1971	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20,570
1972	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20,660
1973	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20,720

Inhabited Houses

Numbers and types are given below:

Inhabited houses	..	...	...	...	7,869
Terraced houses	...	...	...	...	1,831
Detached houses	...	...	...	...	233
Semi-Detached houses	...	...	...	...	2,051
Farm houses and cottages	...	...	...	...	8
Houses and shops combined	...	...	...	...	37
Council houses	...	...	...	...	3,709

Births

The figure for 1973 was 294 births (crude birth rate 14.1) .
In 1972 there were 302 live births (crude birth rate 14.6).

Deaths

The total number of deaths in the district for 1973 was 268 (crude death rate 12.9) as compared with 296 in 1972 (crude death rate 14.3).

The following were the chief causes of death during the year:

Causes of Death	1973		1972	
	Number of Deaths	Per cent of total Deaths	Number of Deaths	Per cent of total Deaths
1. Coronary Artery Disease	60	22.3	87	29.4
2. Cancer	56	20.9	55	18.5
3. Respiratory Diseases	59	22.0	56	18.5
4. Violent:				
Road Traffic Accidents				
Suicide	8	3.0	5	1.6
5. Tuberculosis	3	1.1	1	0.3

Cancer

Deaths from cancer numbered 56, one more than for 1972. Of these deaths 3 were due to lung cancer

Coronary Artery Disease

There was a considerable fall in the number of deaths from this cause - 87 in 1972 to 60 in 1973. The percentages of total deaths due to this cause were 29.4% and 22.3% respectively.

Respiratory Disease

The number of deaths from influenza, pneumonia and bronchitis was slightly higher for 1973 than 1972.

Violent Deaths

There were 7 accidental deaths and 1 suicide registered in 1973.

Infant Mortality

There were 5 deaths of children under 1 year of age during the year. The Infant Mortality Rate being 17 as compared with 23 for 1972.

SECTION B

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Meals on Wheels

The service continued to run on much the same lines as for previous years until the Moorfoot Kitchen opened. To correspond with the opening of the kitchen a second van was brought into use and the service was reorganised so that two van drivers became paid employees of the Council. This had to be done because the voluntary organisations had indicated that they were unable to find enough volunteer drivers.

However voluntary help continued to be available to go on the vans as helpers.

In all 7,536 meals were delivered to homes during the year (1972 figure - 5,706 meals).

Luncheon Clubs and Kitchens

The four clubs continued to operate as for previous years but major changes were introduced with the opening of the Moorfoot Kitchen and Dining Room.

As from the end of June all meals for both the meals on wheels and luncheon clubs were produced at the Moorfoot Kitchen. The kitchens at Bullion Hall, South Pelaw Hall and Pelton Fell Village Hall all ceased to operate.

However the luncheon clubs at these centres continued with meals being delivered by the Meals on Wheels vans. Chester Moor Luncheon Club continued to operate and luncheon clubs were started in the Moorfoot Dining Room.

Meals served at luncheon clubs during the year:

Bullion Hall	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,161
South Pelaw	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,336
Pelton Fell	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,988
Chester Moor	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,694
Moorfoot	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,386
TOTAL	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21,565

The total meals served for pensioners, Meals on Wheels and Luncheon Clubs during 1973 was 29,101 as compared with 24,576 the previous year.

Holidays for the Aged

45 pensioners were sent to Southport for a weeks holiday. This was the eighth year that the scheme has been continued.

Three voluntary helpers went with the party to attend to their needs.

Chiropody - Aged Persons

Clinics continued to be held in the Bullion Hall, South Pelaw Hall, Village Hall Pelton Fell and Chester Moor Recreation Room.

The British Red Cross Society organise the sessions with the aid of a grant from the Durham County Council. In each case the Urban District Council permit the use of their premises for the clinics.

Treatments were given as follows:

Number of persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	356
Number of treatments	.	...	...	...	...	...	1051
Bullion Hall	...	...	...	...	...	...	190
South Pelaw Hall	...	...	...	...	...	...	112
Pelton Fell Village Hall	..	...	...	...	...	...	36
Chester Moor	...	...	...	...	...	...	18

Voluntary Help

Once again on behalf of the Chester-le-Street Urban District Council I would thank all voluntary helpers who have given voluntarily their services in any way towards helping to improve the Council's services for the elderly in the town.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water

Piped water is supplied to the town by the Durham County Water Board. Routine samples are taken by the Public Health Inspector and sent for bacteriological and chemical examination at fairly frequent intervals and additional samples are submitted in the case of complaint.

All cases were found to be satisfactory.

Fluoridation of Water Supply

Fluoride is added to the water supply of the Honey Hill treatment works of the Durham County Water Board which supplies water to the district. An amount of 1 p.p.m. is added and samples taken by the Board during the year were generally satisfactory. One sample taken by the department ~~was~~ found to have a Fluoride content of 1.1 p.p.m.

Disinfestations

During the year treatment was carried out in 144 premises in order to deal with infestations of various types; namely, Red Mite, Cockroaches, Wasps.

Clean Air Act 1956 - 1963

No serious complaints arose from atmospheric pollution during the year. Smoke emissions from industrial premises were found to be due to mechanical defects or overloading of plant. All complaints were remedied without recourse to formal action.

The Council has not declared any smoke control areas in the district but there has been a decrease in emissions due to (a) demolition of older property with coal fires (b) conversion to smokeless fuels in existing houses, both by the Council and Private owners in connection with Home Improvement Schemes (c) many householders providing central heating by using smokeless fuel partly for convenience with no storage, cleaning or attendance problems.

All Council houses built were provided with central heating served by appliances burning smokeless fuel.

Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1954

At the end of the year there were 14 scrap metal dealers registered by the authority.

The Council is required to keep a register of such dealers and to register upon application, any scrap metal dealer trading from premises in the area.

Pet Animals Act 1951

Three licences for the keeping of pet shops were issued during the year.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963

During the year 10 premises were newly registered. At the end of the year a total of 200 premises were registered employing 1,600 workers.

There were 44 General Inspections carried out during the year and 30 contraventions recorded.

Twelve non-fatal accidents were reported. It was necessary to investigate two accidents as these involved machinery. In both cases advice was given to operators of the machinery.

(a) Registration and General Inspections

Class of Premises	Number of premises registered during the year	Number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving a General Inspection
Offices	4	58	10
Retail Shops	5	119	32
Wholesale shops, Warehouses	-	1	-
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	1	22	2
Fuel Storage depots	-	-	-
TOTALS	10	200	44

TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS BY INSPECTORS TO REGISTERED PREMISES UNDER THE ACT ----- 61

In this Schedule

"General Inspection" means any inspection of premises to which the Act applies which is undertaken for the purpose of ascertaining whether all the relevant provisions of the Act and instruments thereunder are complied with as respects those premises; and "Registered Premises" means any premises in respect of which a notice under Section 49 of the Act has been received by a local authority or by the London County Council and the expression "Premises Registered" shall be construed accordingly.

(c) Analysis by Workplace of Persons Employed in Registered Premises

Class of Workplace	Number of Persons Employed
Offices	372
Retail Shops	955
Wholesale shops, warehouses	2
Catering establishments open to public	272
Canteens	-
Fuel storage depots	-
Total	1601
Total Males	508
Total Females	1093

(d) Exemptions - No application for exemptions were received.

(e) Prosecutions - It was not necessary to institute proceedings during the year.

(f) Reported Accidents

Workplace	Number Fatal	Reported Non-Fatal	Total No. investigated	Action Recommended			
				Prosecution	Formal Warning	Informal Advice	No Action
Offices	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Retail Shops	-	11	2	-	-	2	-
Wholesale shops Warehouses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Catering establishments open to public, canteens	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fuel storage depots	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	-	12	2	-	-	2	-

(g) Analysis of Reported Accidents

	Offices	Retail Shops	Wholesale warehouses	Catering establishments open to public, canteens	Fuel Storage Depots
Machinery	-	2	-	-	-
Transport	-	-	-	-	-
Falls of persons	1	2	-	-	-
Stepping on or striking against object or persons	-	2	-	-	-
Handling goods	-	2	-	-	-
Struck by falling object	-	1	-	-	-
Fire and explosions	-	-	-	-	-
Electricity	-	-	-	-	-
Use of hand tools	-	1	-	-	-
Not otherwise specified	-	1	-	-	-

(h) Analysis of Contraventions

Section	Number of Contraventions found		Section	Number of Contraventions found	
4	Cleanliness	4	13	Sitting Facilities	-
5	Overcrowding	-	14	Seats (Sedentary Workers)	-
6	Temperature	2	15	Eating facilities	-
7	Ventilation	1	16	Floors, passage & stairs	4
8	Lighting	1	17	Fencing exposed parts machinery	1
9	Sanitary conveniences	4	18	Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery	-
10	Washing facilities	5	19	Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery	-
11	Supply of drinking water	-	23	Prohibition of heavy work	-
12	Clothing accommodation	-	24	First aid	3
				Hoists and lifts	-
				Other matters	5
				Total	30

FACTORIES ACT 1961

PART ONE OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for the purpose of the provisions as to health (including inspections made by the PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR).

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of		Occupiers Prosecuted
		Inspections	Written Notices	
1. Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	-	-	-	-
2. Factories not included in 1, in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	52	16	2	-
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	10	5	-	-
TOTAL	62	21	2	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage to floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	3	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	4	3	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

Sections 133 and 134

Nature of Work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by section 133 (1)(c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices Served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
(1)						
Wearing) Making etc ...) Cleaning and Apparel) Washing	3 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
TOTAL	3	-	-	-	-	-

RATS AND MICE (Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949)

	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1. Number of properties in district	9491 (9217)	0 (0)
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	298 (278)	- (-)
(b) Number infested by:		
(i) Rats	180 (169)	- (-)
(ii) Mice	118 (109)	- (-)
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	265 (361)	0 (0)
(b) Number infested by:		
(i) Rats	54 (78)	3 (2)
(ii) Mice	31 (45)	- (-)

(Last years figures are given in parenthesis)

Rodent Control

298 complaints of rodent infestation were received during the year an increase of 16 on the previous year.

The number of visits made by your rodent operator was 952 which included investigation and "follow up" treatments. In addition 405 Routine Visits were made.

Investigations of Infestation Complaints

	Notification	Visits by Rodent Operative following complaints	Insects etc.
January	36	121	1
February	23	83	2
March	30	122	6
April	25	72	31
May	27	80	35
June	14	48	19
July	17	88	20
August	21	88	12
September	19	35	5
October	28	44	5
November	32	106	7
December	26	65	1
TOTAL	298	952	144

Sewer Treatments

The annual treatment of sewers was carried out during the year and baits were laid in 115 manholes. There were 6 takes recorded indicating small infestations of rats.

SECTION D

There were 58 Council houses completed during the year. 2 were completed by private builders.

Houses Built Since 1953

	1953-1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	Total
New Permanent Council Houses -----	1085	54	109	54	33	16	26	4	239	100	50	1770
Re-lets -----	971	122	157	113	130	138	206	178	240	88	74	2417
Private -----	449	143	120	134	143	161	138	6	15	12	2	1373

Rehousing

Rehousing on medical priority was granted to 30 families during the year. 82 families were rehoused from condemned property.

Rehousing from condemned property for the past ten years:

1964	23
1965	40
1966	21
1967	31
1968	19
1969	19
1970	0
1971	12
1972	27
1973	82

Unfit Houses

16 representations were made, as a result of which, 16 demolition orders were made. In 3 cases demolition orders were substituted for closing orders.

Undertakings not to re-let houses after the Council had rehoused the existing tenants, were received from the owner of a further 11 properties.

Following action taken the previous years 18 houses were demolished and 1 house closed.

In one case a closing order in respect of part of a house was determined as improvements and repairs had been carried out and the house made fit.

Improvement Grants (Private Houses)

130 applications were approved totalling £311,360. 220 grants were completed during the year and a total of £272,182 paid.

Housing standards are being raised to a high level with the aid of these grants, although it is estimated that there are approximately a further 400 houses which may qualify for grant aid.

Standard Grants (Private Houses)

Interest regarding these grants was maintained although they are usually limited to specific areas of the district where improvement to the 12 points standard of improvement grants is not possible.

22 applications were approved and grants totalling £9695 were made.

30 houses were provided with the standard amenities during the year at a cost of £17595.

<u>Summary</u>	<u>1973</u>	<u>Total - 1959/1973</u>
Number of applications approved	22	509
Number of houses improved	30	421
Amount paid in grants	£17595	£93,344

It is estimated that there are 380 houses which lack one or more basic amenities.

Qualification Certificates

The Housing Act 1972 provides that an owner of a dwelling having a controlled tenancy may make application for a qualification certificate to enable him to apply to the Rent Officer for the tenancy to be changed to a Regulated tenancy subject to the dwelling being provided with all the standard amenities and being in a state of good repair.

1 application was received during the year and one certificate was issued. 16 applications were made for Certificates of Provisional Approval and eleven issued.

In the remaining cases the qualifying conditions were not met and the owners were informed and given the opportunity of bringing their dwellings up to standard.

Houses in Multiple Occupation

There are known to be 4 houses in multiple occupation in the town. In three cases satisfactory facilities are provided. The other property is the subject of a Demolition Order.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

Premises to which the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations apply placed in groups according to principal trade:

Licenced Clubs	9
General Dealers and Supermarkets	37
Dispensing Chemists	3
Confectioner (Sweets)	12
Confectioner (Bakery)	9
Fish and Chip Shops	8
Butcher	5
Cafes and Restaurants	11
Public Houses	10
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	7
Canteens	7
Ice Cream Factories	1
Wet Fish Shops	3
Bakery	2
School Kitchens and Canteens	5
Pasteurised Liquid Egg Factory	1
TOTAL	<u>136</u>

Food Premises

Regular inspections were made of premises to which the Regulations applied. Particular attention was given to catering premises and to premises where open food was sold.

Milk and Dairies

Only milk of specified designations may be sold in the district. The granting of Dealers Licenses authorising the use of special designations is the responsibility of the Durham County Council.

The County Council staff take samples of milk for examination and copies of the results are sent to the Chester-le-Street Urban District Council, Health Department. In all 64 samples were reported on, the results are shown in the table below:

Designation

Untreated -----	9
Pasteurised -----	43
Sterilised -----	11
U.H.T. -----	1

<u>Test Result</u>	<u>Passed</u>	<u>Void</u>	<u>Failed</u>
Methylene Blue Test -----	43	5	4
Phosphatase Test -----	43	-	-
Turbidity Test -----	11	-	-
Antibiotic Test -----	9	-	-
Colony Count -----	1	-	-

In addition 22 samples were taken from Hospitals in the district.

Meat and Other Foods

The following foodstuffs were found by the Public Health Inspector to be unsound and were voluntarily surrendered:

	<u>Lbs</u>
Meat and Meat Products -----	357
Fruit and Vegetables -----	176
Fish and Fish Products -----	298
Miscellaneous -----	135
TOTAL -----	966

Prosecutions

During the year there were 2 prosecutions taken under the Food and Drugs Act 1955. The fines and costs awarded amounted to £64.35.

SECTION F

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and Other Diseases

There were only 11 notifications received during 1973. Of these 6 were measles, 4 pulmonary tuberculosis and 1 meningococcal septicaemia.

Tuberculosis

There were 4 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified during the year and there were 3 deaths registered as being caused by this disease.

These figures indicate that the problem of tuberculosis is not yet solved in spite of B.C.G. vaccination and the use of modern drugs.

